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FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 116

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

Revised draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Office accommodation at the Palais Wilson

The General Assembly:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the office accommodation at the Palais Wilson,[1] the comments and observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] and the oral statement made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on 16 March 1998;

(b) Approves the proposal of the Secretary-General to accept the offer of the Swiss authorities to place the office accommodation at the Palais Wilson in Geneva at the disposal of the United Nations;

(c) Notes that the cost estimate of the move to the Palais Wilson would amount to 5,805,000 United States dollars, of which the contribution from the Government of Switzerland would amount to 3,846,000 dollars and the balance of 1,959,000 dollars would be covered from existing resources under section 27F of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, available for the provision of accommodation at Geneva;

(d) Expresses appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for its offer to grant rent-free accommodation at Palais Wilson to the year 2000;

[1] A/C.5/52/19 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

[2] A/52/7/Add.4.

(e) Requests the Swiss authorities to ensure the extension of the rent-free agreement beyond the year 2000, and invites the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to have the assurance of the Swiss authorities in this regard;

(f) Also requests the Secretary-General [to request the Office of Internal Oversight Services] to submit to the General Assembly at its next resumed fifty-second session, a cost-benefit analysis on the use of the existing conference facilities available at the Palais des Nations in Geneva;

(g) Decides to consider the proposal to build two additional conference rooms at the Palais Wilson in the light of the above-mentioned report;

(h) Also decides to consider the issue of the office accommodation at its fifty-fourth session in the light of the decision to be taken in respect of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.